

Who to Contact

Victim Impact Classes/Panels are being offered throughout the Des Moines area at different times and locations. If you or someone you know has been a victim of crime and is interested in participating in our Victim Impact Classes/Panels program, would like more information, or a detailed presentation, please contact:

Fifth Judicial District

Department of Correctional Services
Support Service Center
Jim Hancock Center
910 Washington Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50314
Buzz Hoffman, SSC Supervisor
(515) 242-6636

Fifth Judicial District

Department of Correctional Services
Support Service Center
Fort Des Moines
65/66 Gruber Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50311
LuAnn Smith, Community Treatment
Coordinator, (515) 242-6931
Jennifer Guild, Community Program
Monitor, (515) 242-6969

Class Start Date: _____

Location: _____

Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice views crime as a violation of the victim and the community. It defines accountability for offenders in terms of taking responsibility for their actions, working to repair the harm caused to the victim and community, and attending to needs that both led to, and were created by, the offense. It provides for active participation by the victim, the offender, and in the community in the process of repairing the fabric of community peace and so forth.



*"Humankind has not woven the web of life.
We are but one thread within it. Whatever
we do to the web, we do to ourselves All
things are bound together. All things
connect."*

Chief Seattle

VICTIM IMPACT PANELS



Community Collaboration
In Response To
Crime & Victimization

**Fifth Judicial District
Department of Correctional
Services
Support Service Center**

Victim Impact Classes/Panels

Victim Impact Classes/Panels engage the assistance of victims/survivors from the community who volunteer to share their personal experiences of victimization with offenders. The shared personal experiences are invaluable in making the academic portion of victim impact classes come to life. It helps the offender understand crimes are committed against real people, and that a victim's life may be forever changed. This national program stresses personal responsibility, being accountable, and the consequences of criminal behavior, while emphasizing the victim perspective.

Victim Impact Classes/Panels are part of the national program developed by Mothers Against Orunk Driving (MADD) and the California Youth Authority (CYA). The curriculum covers crimes such as: property crime, drugs, crimes against the elderly, child maltreatment, assault, domestic violence, sexual assault, robbery, drunk driving, homicide, and gang violence.

Program Goals

The primary goal of this program:

Is to change offender behavior and decrease the likelihood of reoffending. Also, to increase community awareness of the long-term physical and emotional harms and damage that crimes inflict on victims and community.

Our primary concern:

Is the well-being of potential speakers.



"Justice will only be achieved when those who ore not injured by crime feel as indignant as those who are."

- Solomon

Benefits for Victims

- Provides a forum for the expression of feelings and thoughts resulting from victimization.
- Creates a sense of empowerment that has been destroyed by crime.
- Assist in the effort to prevent similar victimization from happening to someone else.

Benefits for Offenders

- Accept responsibility for past criminal actions.
- Understand the impact of crime on victims and the long-term impact of victimization.
- Develop personal safety skills with a focus on crime prevention.
- Contribute to their communities in a way that will prevent further victimization.

Benefits for Community

- Defines the domino effect of crime- regardless of its severity.
- Investment in individual and public safety as a community priority.

Potential Benefits for our Community:

- * Have a community alternative for dealing with conflicts.
- * Offenders may start to become more active and responsible members of our community.
- * Citizens have an opportunity to encourage practical peacemaking in their own communities.

Common Questions

Is it safe? Meetings can be held in a neutral location chosen by the victim, or in the Department of Correctional Services office. A trained facilitator conducts assessments to determine **safety** issues for all involved.

What Does it Cost? There is no charge for this service.

Do I Have To Do This To Get Restitution? No! If you have filed a Victim Impact Statement with the County Attorneys **Office**, then restitution will be ordered for the offender regardless of your participation in VOIS. This program is based on the voluntary participation of victims and the community.

Is It Effective? Many participants have found this process to be very helpful.

Restorative Justice

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Who Do I Contact If I Have Questions or Want to Participate in VOIS?

For more information please contact:

Mary P. **Roche**
Victim Liaison/Program Monitor

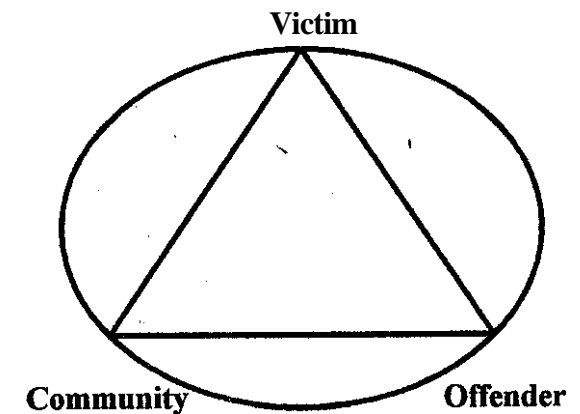
Dennis **DeBerg**
Program Supervisor

(319)236-8834

First Judicial District
Department of Correctional Services
209 W. 5th Street, Suite N
P.O. Box 1050
Waterloo, IA 50704-1050

VOIS

Victim-Offender Intervention Service



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION IN
RESPONSE TO CRIME AND
VICTIMIZATION

What is VOIS?

Victim/Offender Intervention Service (VOIS) is a voluntary program that provides an opportunity for individuals directly affected by crime to actively participate in dealing with the consequences of that crime. The goal of the program is for the parties most affected to have an opportunity to address:

- * **What** happened,
- * How it **felt** when **it** happened,
- * Why **it** happened, **and**
- * **What** is needed for restitution **and/or** reparation.

How Does This Work?

A professionally trained facilitator meets with all parties individually, listens to each person tell how they were affected by what happened, and explains program options. Some of these options include:

- * Having direct **input into a Restitution Agreement**,
- Development **of an** additional Reparation **Plan, and**
- Direct or indirect communication between **the victim(s) of the crime** and the offender(s). This **could** include a **structured** face-to-face **meeting**.

What Does Restitution and Reparation Involve?

A Restitution **Agreement** is a court **order** that details the monetary losses of the victim(s) as a result of the crime and a payment schedule for the offender. The offender(s) makes payments to the Clerk of Courts **Office** and a check **is** sent on a monthly basis to those victims **identified** on the order.

A Reparation Agreement is an agreement that details additional actions the offender will take to try and repair harm done to the victim(s) and the community.

Direct or Indirect Communication between those affected by the crime and the offender is another option. Restitution and Reparation Agreements are often a part of this process. Communication and agreements between victim(s) and offender(s) can be made indirectly through the facilitator, or directly in a face-to-face meeting.

Face-to-face meetings involve careful planning and preparation, and are facilitated by a trained professional. Assessing the safety and comfort of each participant is a vital part of this process. Follow-up policies are also implemented to increase the likelihood that agreements are fulfilled.

Why Would Anyone Want to Do This?

Potential Benefits for Victims:

- * An opportunity to actively participate in the process of resolving the incident.
- * An increased chance of receiving restitution or reparation.
- * An opportunity to be more fully informed:
 - about **the** incident (motive, method, background)
 - about the **offender** (**what** kind of **person** is this?)
 - about **the Criminal Justice System and its processes**.
- * An opportunity to experience a sense of closure.

Potential Benefits for Offenders:

- * An opportunity to be aware of the harm suffered by victims.
- * An opportunity to **"make it right"** with the victim, to acknowledge responsibility and to do **whatever is** reasonable and possible to make amends.
- * To be more fully informed:
 - about **the Criminal Justice System and its processes**
 - about the impact **of** criminal actions on the **victim** and **the community**.
- * An opportunity equal with the victim(s) to fully participate in finding a fair and reasonable way to resolve the incident.

WHO TO CONTACT

Victim Impact Classes/Panels are being offered at the following locations within the First Judicial District: Dubuque, Oelwein, Waterloo, and West Union. If you or someone you know has been a victim of crime and is interested in participating in our Victim Impact **Classes/Panels** program, would like more information, or a detailed presentation, please contact:

District Treatment Coordinator

Laura Scheffert James (319) 236-8834

Dubuque Office

Lee Stroebele (319) 875-2518
Lori Zimmerman (319) 557-7244

Oelwein Office

Lanette Bloem (319) 283-2741

Waterloo Office

Mary Roche (319) 236-8834

West Union Office

Jodi Kuennen (319) 422-5758

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

First Judicial District
Department of Correctional Services
Town Clock Plaza
745 Main Street
Dubuque, IA 52001
(319) 557-7244

First Judicial District
Department of Correctional Services
116 E. Charles Street
P.O. Box 151
Oelwein, IA 50662
(319) 283-2741

First Judicial District
Department of Correctional Services
209 W. 5th Street, Suite N
P.O. Box 1050
Waterloo, IA 50704
(319) 236-8834

First Judicial District
Department of Correctional Services
500 S. Pine
P.O. Box 497
West Union, IA 52175
(319) 422-5758

*****Information in this brochure has been adapted
from Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
and the California Youth Authority (CYA).***

VICTIM IMPACT



**COMMUNITY COLLABORATION IN
RESPONSE TO CRIME AND
VICTIMIZATION**

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Department of Correctional Services
Day Programming

VICTIM IMPACT CLASSES/PANELS**

Victim Impact **Classes/Panels** engage the assistance of victims/survivors from the community who volunteer to share their personal experiences of victimization with offenders. **These** shared personal experiences are invaluable' in making the academic portion of victim impact classes come to life. It helps **the** offender **understand** crimes are committed against real people, and that a victim's life may be forever, changed. This national program stresses personal responsibility, being accountable, and the consequences of criminal behavior, while emphasizing the victim perspective. ,

Victim Impact Classes/Panels is part of a national program developed by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the California Youth Authority (CYA). The curriculum covers crimes **such as:** property crime, drugs, crimes against the elderly, child maltreatment, assault, domestic violence, sexual assault, robbery, drunk driving, homicide, and gang violence.

PROGRAM GOALS**

The primary goal of this program is to change offender behavior and decrease the likelihood of reoffending. Our primary concern is the well-being of potential speakers.

FOR PANEL MEMBERS**

For victim/survivor panel members; the potential goals of the Victim Impact Classes/Panels include:‘.

- To provide a forum for the expression of feelings/thoughts resulting **from** victimization.
- To possibly gain something, positive from a devastating experience.
- To assist in the **effort** to prevent similar crimes from happening to someone else.

“If the attitude of even one perpetrator can be altered, if they can be made to know and understand and feel the sorrow, the pain, the longing for the victim that results from this **action**, perhaps the life of a potential ‘victim can be saved”

-A **Victim**



“The time spent sharing their stories opened my eyes to the pain caused by being irresponsible, It left an impact on me that I’ll always remember.”

- An **Offender**

FOR OFFENDERS**

The goals of Victim Impact Classes/Panels are designed so that the offender, through class assignments and victim speakers, will:

- . Accept responsibility for past criminal actions.
- Understand the impact of crime on victims and the long-term impact of victimization.
- . Develop personal safety skills with a focus on crime prevention.
- Contribute to their communities in a way that will prevent **further** victimization.
- Learn about Restorative Justice.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Restorative Justice views crime **as** a violation of the victim and the community. It defines accountability for offenders in terms of taking responsibility for their actions, working to repair the harm caused to the victim and community, and attending to needs that both led to, and were created by, the offense. It provides for active participation by the victim, the offender, and the community in the process of repairing the fabric of community peace and safety.

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